

**New Program Proposal  
Master of Science in Youth Development  
Clemson University**

**Summary**

Clemson University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Youth Development, to be implemented in Fall 2004.

The proposal was approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees on April 25, 2003 and submitted for Commission review on February 13, 2004. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on March 31, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to prepare students to address the issues facing youth in the context of family and community. The proposal states that there has recently been a paradigm shift within the human services professions away from a medical model or deficit-based approach toward a developmental model. To meet the needs of this new paradigm, students will acquire knowledge and develop skills in the areas of youth development theories, research and program evaluation, program implementation and management, and resource development.

Clemson does not currently have a Youth Development program, and the proposal notes that there are no Master's-level degrees in this field within South Carolina. Nationally the only similar program is an M.A. degree program in Youth Development offered by the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (an alliance of five post-secondary institutions).

Graduates of the program will be prepared for employment in youth-service organizations, of which there are approximately 17,000 across the United States. These organizations range from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to the National Collaboration for Youth. The proposal states that skills acquired in the program will also function well in state Departments of Mental Health, Health and Environmental Control, and Social Services. Several well documented demographic and societal trends suggest a growing set of issues related to children and youth to be served by these organizations and agencies, including increased

sexual activity at younger ages, higher rates of teenage pregnancy, and rising rates of illegal substance use. The proposal did not provide specific vacancy projections for unique career paths and opportunities related to the proposed degree. No survey of available or anticipated positions was reported for determining the employability of these program graduates.

The proposed program will be administered by the College of Health, Education, and Human Development (HEHD). A “coordinating faculty team” with a representative from each of these schools within HEHD will guide administration of the program. The team will be chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Curriculum Development. Drawing from faculty in the disciplines represented in the College and four Centers within HEHD (International Center for Service-Learning in Teacher Education, National Dropout Prevention Center, Joseph F. Sullivan Center, and the Center for Safety Research and Education), the M.S. program in Youth Development will provide an interdisciplinary approach to preparing students to address issues facing youth in the context of family and community.

The curriculum will require 36 hours of academic coursework. For students not seeking a degree, a 15-credit hour certificate in Youth Development will be available. The curriculum consists of a core of five courses (15 credit hours) focusing on youth development, leadership of youth programs, and assessment and evaluation of youth programs. There are an additional seven courses in the program, including a course on “Grantsmanship” (i.e., developing skills in seeking funding sources) and a Master’s Project that requires the development of an article for submission to a professional journal. The proposal notes that as the program evolves there will be new courses specifically developed to address student needs in the content area of youth development.

The proposal indicates that instruction will be delivered on the Clemson University campus, as well as via distance education, including use of the Internet and two-way videoconferencing. Students will have the option of completing the entire program through any combination, or sole use, of on-campus attendance or distance education. Clemson University has an extensive distance education program using multiple technologies for the delivery of instruction and content. Clemson also provides training and technical assistance to faculty in the use of instructional technologies and the adaptation of course content to the unique demands of instructional technology.

No new faculty are required to deliver the program. Total faculty dedicated to teaching will be eight (2 FTE) committing 25 percent time annually to teach a maximum of one course per semester.

Several factors are considered in estimating enrollment for the program, including the need for practicing professionals to receive continuing education units (CEU's) and the interest of practitioners in certification programs. The proposal also notes that several South Carolina state agencies (such as the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services) have expressed "strong interest" in the proposed course of study. During the first proposed year of the program (2004-05) projected enrollment is 10 students headcount (9.5 FTE), increasing to 45 student headcount (34 FTE) by year five. If met, these projections meet CHE's program productivity standards.

No specialized accreditation is available for this program. No state licensure is required for the operation of this program.

The proposal states that current space allocated to HEHD will be sufficient to implement the program. There are no other equipment or facilities costs associated with the proposed program. New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$168,600 in the first year, and remain the same for each of the four subsequent years. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program's implementation include program administration (\$120,000); faculty salaries (\$500,000); clerical/support personnel (\$15,000); and supplies and materials (\$8,000). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$843,000.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state, and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Estimated New Costs	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2004-05	\$168,350	\$0	<b>\$168,350</b>	\$0	\$92,064	<b>\$92,064</b>
2005-06	\$367,711	\$0	<b>\$367,711</b>	46,939	\$200,802	<b>\$247,742</b>
2006-07	\$567,072	\$0	<b>\$567,072</b>	102,185	\$310,264	<b>\$412,449</b>
2007-08	\$598,084	\$0	<b>\$598,084</b>	158,039	\$326,938	<b>\$484,978</b>
2008-09	\$598,084	\$0	<b>\$598,084</b>	166,345	\$326,938	<b>\$493,284</b>

These data demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will

not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates during the first five years of the program.

In summary, the institution will offer a program leading to the M.S. degree in Youth Development that will provide students with a targeted set of skills designed to meet the needs of a growing population of at-risk and disadvantaged youth. A changed paradigm of skills needed for these purposes and with student demand for the program have been the principal bases for this proposal.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Clemson University's proposed program leading to the Master of Science degree in Youth Development for implementation in Fall 2004, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.